

Salt River Fire Department Operating Guidelines

Ambulance Cleaning Procedures

October 2001

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Purpose

To insure that ambulances that are being used for patient transport are properly cleaned after every transport in a standardize manner. To provide for the most sterile environment for Fire Department personnel and the patients they serve. This cleaning and disinfecting procedure is required and essential to ensure employee safety as well as that of the patients that are treated and transported daily.

1. Cleaning the vehicle and EMS equipment between calls and at the end of the shift.
(This should be monitored by the station Captain, whenever possible.)
 - A. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is used:
 - Isolation gown (if necessary)
 - Mask (if necessary)
 - Eye protection (MANDATORY)
 - Booties (if necessary)
 - Gloves (MANDATORY)
 - B. Cleaning and disinfecting of equipment should be performed at the receiving medical facility as much as possible. Some facilities are equipped with a designated area to remove heavily contaminated equipment. Large items can be taken to this area and the majority of the contaminates hosed off into a containment area. Complete PPE should be worn in this area. The fewer contaminated items on board, the lesser the risk to exposure. Some equipment items may take extensive cleaning and decontamination efforts. These items must be red-bagged and transported back to quarters for immediate cleaning.
 - C. To clean, deodorize, and disinfect hold the cleaning agent mixture dispenser 10 inches from the surface and atomize with quick short strokes, spraying evenly on contaminated or potentially contaminated areas of the equipment and affected interior patient compartment of the ambulance or other affected portions of the vehicle until wet. Wait 30 seconds and wipe dry with a paper towel. To kill Staph, Strep, and other common types of virus and bacteria strains, repeat as above, wait 10 minutes, and wipe dry. Blood and other body fluids must be thoroughly cleaned from surfaces and objects before application of the disinfectant.
 - D. Steps in cleaning after each transport:
 1. Remove gurney
 2. All visible debris and soil contaminants are wiped off with towels
 3. Cleaning agent mixture is sprayed liberally on the interior of the transport compartment of the vehicle

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4. Cleaning agent mixture is sprayed liberally on the gurney mattress, the gurney frame, including wheels
5. All surfaces are inspected to ensure that no visible signs of debris, soil or contaminants are present. If such signs still exist, then repeat the cleaning process
6. Towels are disposed of appropriately for washing. Paper towels must be placed in a red or properly marked biohazard bag or container if blood-soaked; otherwise, they may be treated as normal trash per Scottsdale Health Care SOG's.
7. Gloves must be placed in a red or properly marked biohazard bag or container if blood-soaked; otherwise, they may be treated as normal trash per Scottsdale Health Care SOG's.

2. Special Equipment Cleaning Instructions

- A. Patient restraint straps (spine board, gurney); remove immediately when contaminated with blood or body fluids or body substances/secretions and place in a red or appropriately marked biohazard bag.
 1. Straps are washed upon return to the station in an appropriate detergent according to manufactures instruction and recommendations.
 2. Air or machine dry as recommended
- B. Equipment bags made of Cordura nylon; remove from service immediately when contaminated with blood, body fluids, or body substances/secretions and place in a red or appropriately marked biohazard bag.
 1. The bags will be washed upon return to the station in appropriate detergent according to manufacturer instructions and recommendations.
 2. Air or machine dry as recommended.
- C. MAST/PASG: Before washing, all gauges are removed, using the quick-disconnect tubing and closing all valves. Washing is done by hand in soapy water. DO NOT DRY CLEAN, BLEACH, STEAM CLEAN, OR USE HARSH CHEMICALS. FOLLOW MANUFACTURERS INSTRUCTIONS.
- D. Laryngoscope blades and magill forceps, portable suction units (and any other non-disposable instruments that touch mucous membrane): equipment is cleaned with the cleaning agent mixture insuring complete coverage with the agent mixture and then rinsing. Insure that all needles and contaminated scalpels are placed in a Sharps container.
- E. The radio equipment should be decontaminated by spraying cleaning agent on a towel and wiping down the portable radio and microphones/mobile radio.

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- F. Turnouts that have been contaminated should be removed from the individual, bagged in a red bag or appropriate biohazard container and taken to the station. The turnouts should be first hosed off and brushed using liquid detergent that does not have any chlorine products. Once hosed off, the coat and pants should be separated from the liner (if possible) and placed in a washing machine with soap and hot water. The turnouts and liners should be air-dried. The washing machine should be cleaned using a 10% mixture of bleach and run through a complete cycle.